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NATION

Hunt is denied damages over conspiracy article

A federal fury denied Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt \$1 million in damages yesterday, deciding that he was not libeled in an article by an ex-CIA agent suggesting Mr. Hunt was part of a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

In a trial four years ago, Mr. Hunt was awarded \$650,000 in damages. That verdict was overturned because of a flawed instruction to the jury.

This time a six-member jury found in favor of Liberty Lobby, a right-wing Washington group that publishes *The Spotlight* tabloid, where the article appeared in 1978. Mr. Hunt's lawyer, William Snyder of Baltimore, said the two men would confer about a possible appeal.

One juror, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the panel felt that no evidence was presented showing malice toward Mr. Hunt by the publication. The judge had instructed the jury before it began deliberating Tuesday that evidence of malice was necessary to find for Mr. Hunt.